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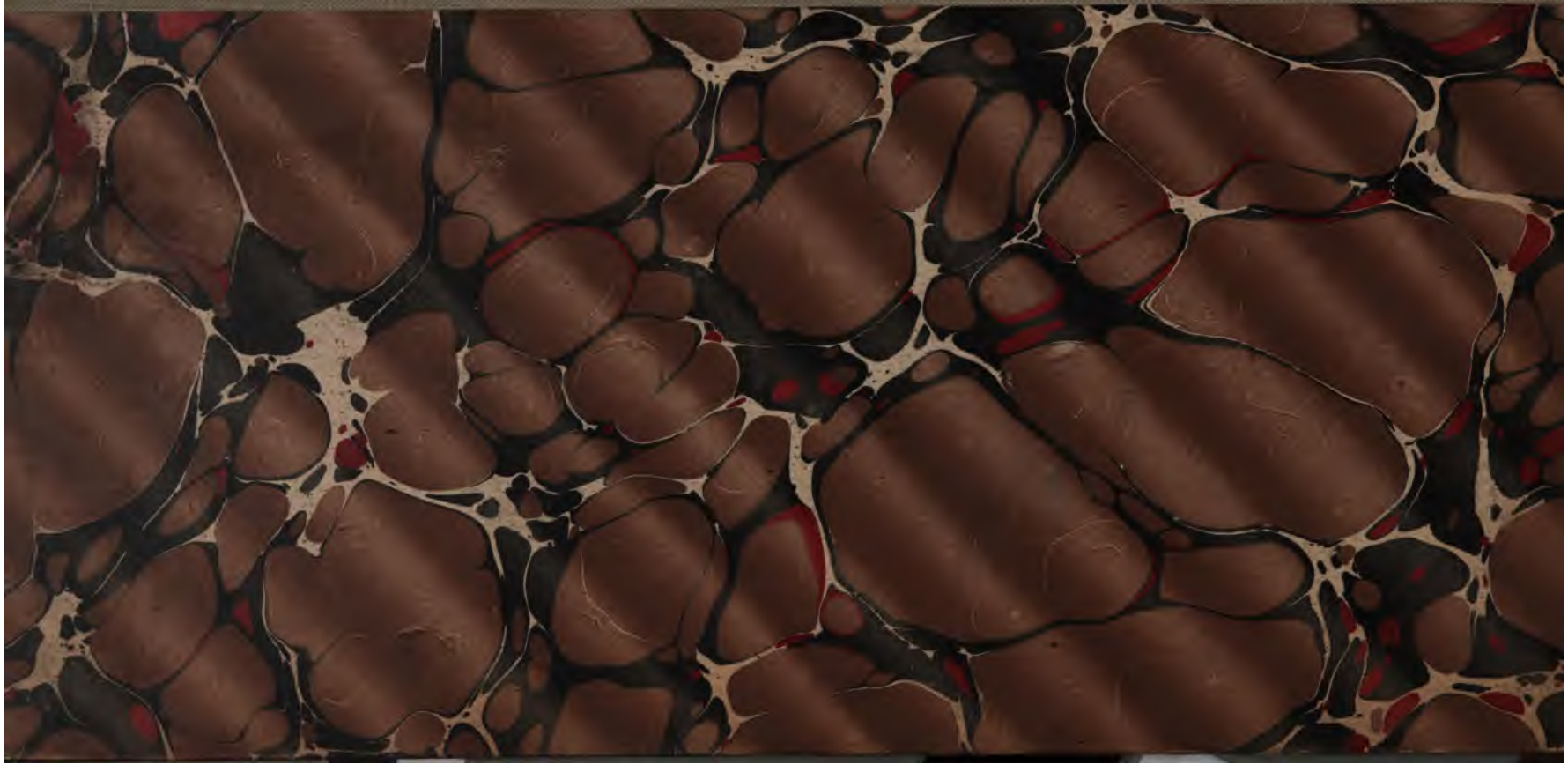

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MEMORIALS.

MEMORIALS

OF

DECEASED FRIENDS,

OF

NEW-ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING.

PUBLISHED BY
THE MEETING FOR SUFFERINGS.
1854.

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TESTIMONIES.

STEPHEN NICHOLS.

Testimony of Vassalborough Monthly Meeting, concerning our late aged and worthy friend, Stephen Nichols.

As it has pleased Infinite Wisdom to remove from works to rewards, our beloved friend and elder in the Church; we feel engaged to bear the following testimony to his christian character. He was born at Berwick, the 12th of 2nd month 1769. Of his early life, we have but little account, except from circumstances which he has been heard to relate. From these it appears, he early yielded to the impressions of religious duty; as the following incident which he related to some of his children, the day before his death, will illustrate. That when he was a youth, being at the house of an aged friend, while on a journey, he heard it remarked by some of the family, that it was their meeting day; — he felt it his duty to attend it and went alone to the meeting house, and on entering, found there but three aged friends, who alone composed the meeting; yet, it was through mercy to our beloved friend, a season of Divine favor, proving an awakening and refreshing opportunity which he remembered unto the day of his death.

In the year 1794, he married and settled within the limits of Salem monthly meeting, having resided there, for several previous years. But it pleased our Heavenly Father, that this

union should be of short duration. In 1796 his companion was removed by death. It was while treading the lonely path in which he was now called to walk, that his mind was turned to this part of the country, under a belief that it was his proper place. He accordingly made arrangements for a settlement, and in 1799, he was again married to a member of Durham monthly meeting, and came to reside within our limits. This was in the early settlement of this meeting, and much religious labor devolved upon a few. Our beloved friend united with his brethren in an earnest desire for the promotion of the Redeemer's kingdom, among men. He several times accompanied those who were travelling in the ministry, and we have reason to believe, that he was favored to exert an influence for good over divers individuals who afterwards became prominent and useful members of our religious society, and with whom he preserved an endeared friendship during their lives. As an overseer, he was diligent, faithful, feeling the weight and responsibility of the station. And having given evidence of being a duly anointed laborer in the Church, in the year 1813, he was appointed an Elder; which station he acceptably filled to the close of his life. Being sound in faith and doctrine, and of a discerning spirit, he was engaged for the support of a clear and living ministry; faithfully and affectionately offering counsel and advice, as well as encouragement to those who were called to this important service; manifesting in all his labors that meekness, simplicity and humility which peculiarly characterized him through life. In his family, he labored early and earnestly for the maintenance of true Christian simplicity and the support of our various testimonies. In the attendance of all our religions meetings, he was a truly worthy example; seldom absent even in old age; manifesting therein a weightiness of spirit which was truly instructive. And he was earnestly concerned for his family and friends that they might be partakers with him of that spiritual refreshment which is to be derived from these seasons; not being willing that any of them should be left behind on account of any secular concerns; expressing his belief, that a blessing would rest upon a sacrifice thus made. Thus publicly

acknowledging his dependence upon his heavenly Father, and upon that mercy and grace which come through Christ Jesus, our Lord. He was in the practice of daily assembling his family about him, to read the Holy Scriptures, and to wait upon the Lord. He mourned over any departure from our christian principles and testimonies, believing those who thus departed would sustain a loss thereby. In the trials and afflictions of this life, he partook largely, having thrice been bereaved of the beloved partners of his joys and sorrows. But in all these, he was sustained by that everlasting arm of Divine Power, which is the support of those who trust in the Lord. Thus did he travel through this world, as a stranger and pilgrim, journeying towards that "city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." For the last few years of his life, he was from age and inability, nearly disengaged from outward business, and appeared as one waiting for the coming of his Lord. The lively interest he had manifested in early life in the affairs of society continued unabated, to the last. In the society of those with whom he had been united in the service of the church, he took much delight; his mind was remarkably clear upon subjects of interest, relating thereto. On the 4th of the 8th month last, whilst making preparation for attending meeting, he was taken unwell; and although there was nothing apparently of an alarming nature in his disorder, yet he believed it would be his last sickness; and remarked, he thought it would be of short duration. He was sensible of his situation, — his mind was calm and composed, conversing with those about him, until within a few hours of his death. He departed this life, the 8th of 8th month 1853, in the eighty fifth year of his age. We humbly trust he has gone to join the ransomed of all generations, "Having come to his grave, in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in, in his season."

Signed by direction, and on behalf of Vassalboro' Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at E. Vassalboro' 5th month 17th 1854.

JOSEPH H. COLE,
RACHEL B. NICHOLS, } Clerks.

The foregoing testimony from Vassalboro' Monthly Meeting, was read in this Meeting, and being approved, the Clerk was directed to forward it to the Meeting for Sufferings.

From the minutes of Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting of Friends held at East Vassalboro', 5th month 26th 1854.

JOSEPH H. COLE, } Clerks.
ANN E. LANG, }

HANNAH DENNIS.

A testimony of Rhode Island Monthly Meeting, concerning our deceased Friend Hannah Dennis.

Our beloved friend Hannah Dennis, was the daughter of Sampson and Ruth Sherman, and was born in Portsmouth on Rhode Island 1st month 27th 1769. Her parents were sensible of the importance of rearing their children in "the admonition of the Lord." This blessing in childhood shielded her from many temptations, which often lead the footsteps of the unwary into paths that sometimes are to be retraced with remorse, and anguish of spirit. On the contrary, we believe that the watchful care, and pious counsel which our dear friend received, was not only the means of preserving her from many snares, but also to prepare the ground for the good seed of the Kingdom, which, being fostered in its tender growth, increased to the exceeding joy of its possessor; and the care and guidance of the good Husbandman continued throughout a long life, to be to her an unfailing support, amidst the various vicissitudes of this probationary scene. She was married to our late dear friend Jonathan Dennis, 12th month 7th 1791. We have but very little account of the exercises, by which she was disciplined, and qualified for usefulness in the Militant Church, or to the baptisms to which she was subjected, before a gift in the ministry was dispensed to her. Her

first appearances were about the 35th year of her age, which being acceptable to Friends, her gift was subsequently acknowledged by Rhode-Island Monthly Meeting.

One of the strong features of her ministry was, earnest exhortation, and encouragement to faithfulness, and dedication of heart, and an unreserved submission to the pointings of truth whether these led into suffering, or active service; expressing a full, and firm belief, that we shall be enabled to perform whatever is clearly shown to be our duty, through the help of Him who calleth us thereto.

She was often engaged in Gospel love to perform visits in different parts of New England Yearly Meeting, and also in the families of Friends, offering the language of comfort, and encouragement. In 1812 in company with our late dear friend Anne Greene, she visited the meetings in several Quarterly Meetings within the limits of New York Yearly Meeting, and in 1825 received a certificate to accompany our late dear friend Sarah Tucker, of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting, in a visit to some of the Quarterly Meetings constituting Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, bringing on her return, satisfactory evidences, that her services had been acceptable, and encouraging.

She was attentive in fulfilling the important duty of visiting the sick, and afflicted, entering into sympathy with them, and was often instrumental in imparting encouragement, and consolation to those who were under the chastening hand.

She was an instructive example of dedication to her Lord and Master; and maintained a lively concern for the promotion of Truth; her exertions in the attendance of our religious meetings were worthy of imitation, she sometimes surmounting difficulties, from which many would have shrunk.

Having been a firm believer in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in his outward manifestation, wherein he tasted death for every man; and having been faithful to the measure of Divine Grace with which she was favored during the days of her earthly pilgrimage, He was pleased to manifest Himself to be the God of all consolation, when nature was sinking to decay. She was favored to look back upon the precious evidences of His love, throughout her protracted course, with gratitude, and in quiet

hope, and confiding composure, to the future, as in the arms of parental love. Though her bodily sufferings were sometimes very great, no anxieties, no fears, disturbed the equanimity of her soul. The influence of her purified spirit was felt by those around her, even the savor of that love that cometh from above. And being thus clothed with a measure of the Savior's peace, she was permitted to have a view of the crown which was laid up in store for her, rejoicing in hope, and we believe her sun went down without a cloud, and, through the mercy of a once crucified Redeemer, her ransomed spirit obtained an admittance into the kingdom of heaven.

She departed this life in Newport on 7th day the 24th of 7th month 1852, and was buried on 3rd day following, the 27th, in a family burying place, at Portsmouth, after a solemn meeting, in Friends' Meeting house at Newport, where a striking and memorable testimony was borne, to the efficacy of that grace, which had qualified her to rise to the rank of a mother in Israel, and to maintain her place to the last, by one who knew her well, and who very soon followed her from works to rewards: As they had often taken sweet counsel together, while living, so, in death, it may be said, they were scarcely divided.

Signed on behalf of Rhode Island Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at Newport 3rd month 30th 1854.

DAVID BUFFUM,
MARY WILLIAMS, } Clerks.

At Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting of Friends held at East Greenwich 5th month 4th 1854.

The foregoing testimony of Rhode Island Monthly Meeting concerning our late beloved Friend Hannah Dennis, was received at this time, and being read and approved, was directed to be forwarded to the Meeting for Sufferings.

GILBERT CONGDON,
SARAH F. TOBEY, } Clerks.

ELIZABETH WING.

A testimony from Rhode Island Monthly Meeting concerning Elizabeth Wing.

Our beloved friend, Elizabeth Wing, was the daughter of Samuel and Hannah Hopkins, and was born in Philadelphia, 3d mo., 20th, 1776.

In childhood, she was favored with the gentle influences of our Heavenly Father's regard, as appears by her own remarks in her diary, in which she expresses that in early life the Lord visited her with the tendering impressions of His love, so as often to melt her heart, and particularly when her parents collected their children together for retirement, a practice they were much in the habit of. She could not forget some of those seasons when her dear father was engaged in prayer for his children. Her heart was greatly affected while she but little understood that it was the hand of the Lord that was thus upon her.

In early life she was married to Roger Hunt, but this union was of short continuance, for in about three years her dear husband was suddenly removed by death. At this time the hand of Him who saw meet thus to chasten her, was mercifully extended; He being pleased to manifest himself to her, as her Lord and Savior, as appears from her memoranda. "At this season of deep and heart-rending affliction, the Father of mercies was pleased to renew His visitations of Divine love to my soul. He stained my pleasant pictures, removing the dear object of my affection. I was favored to close in with these Divine visitations, but not until trials and disappointments had come upon me."

Many and deep were the baptisms appointed her of Him who saw meet to call her, and thus to prepare her to declare to others what the Lord had done for her, and to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ, under which her soul longed for a living experience in that which crucified to this world.

She appears to have deeply felt the necessity of a prepara-

tion of heart for the solemn vocation to which she was called, and in much trembling, expressed a few words in a religious meeting to the comfort of Friends.

After her gift in the ministry was acknowledged by the Monthly Meeting of which she was a member, she was concerned in the exercise of it to visit many of the neighboring meetings, and some of the families composing them. In 1812, she visited some parts of New England, being subsequently engaged several months on a religious visit within the Yearly Meeting of North Carolina.

Sometime after this she removed with her parents to Frankfort, Pennsylvania, where she continued, in the love of the gospel, to visit Meetings and Friends in divers places.

After the death of her parents she became a member of Shrewsbury Monthly Meeting, and being concerned faithfully to discharge her religions duty, she was engaged in visiting several of the Yearly Meetings on this continent.

In 1826, she was married to our friend Edward Wing, and removed to New Bedford, Mass ; here she was again proved by deep exercises of mind. It was a time of much trial, and she was renewedly concerned on this account, that our section of the Christian Church might continue firm on its first and sure foundation, saying, "Oh! that our Zion might arise, and shake herself from the dust of the earth, and shine in the brightness in which she was first gathered, and we were owned as a people. I long for the day to arrive, when the meekness of the Lamb may more appear, evincing that we are true followers of Christ, bearing His blessed yoke, and treading in the path of self-denial."

In 1830, she removed with her husband, to live within the limits of this Monthly Meeting; and, from that time, continued with us in unity and Christian fellowship. And it is under a lively impression of her upright walk among us, and a deep sense of our privation by her removal, that we are concerned to bear testimony to the efficacy of that Divine grace which so wrought in her to the purifying of the heart, and qualified her to become a skillful laborer in the Master's service. It is meet that such as these be held in remembrance, as an encourage-

ment to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering. She was distinguished as an example of great simplicity, united with true christian dignity. Possessing a cheerful and social disposition, she was a pleasant companion; her deportment was dignified and instructive, bearing the evidenceof a watchful and guarded spirit. In the administration of the discipline her judgment was clear and impartial, seeking the honor of Truth, and the health of the body.

Her ministry was sound and edifying, and, under the influence, as we believe, of Divine Truth, it met the faithful witness in the hearers, and being careful not to move without right authority, she was also cautious not to exceed its limitations. Her communications were peculiarly animating to those who were in bonds; to the afflicted, her language was both soothing and encouraging. She was often led into deep poverty of Spirit, saying, "I have not one crumb of bread in all my house"—hence she was qualified to sympathize with those who were hungering for the bread of life, and as the Divine Master was pleased to bless and to break it, she was often the instrument in His holy hand, to dispense it unto others, to the satisfying of their spiritual necessities, and to the sustenance of their souls.

Trying as was the nature of the service required of her, in dedicated obedience, she yielded herself to it, being in several instances called to plead with those who were engaged in the sale of ardent spirits; and we reverently believe that in many instances this labor had a salutary effect, being blessed to some to whom her mind was thus drawn.

She was diligent and faithful in her Lord's service, being often engaged in visiting meetings and families in different parts of our own Yearly Meeting, and often concerned in Gospel love to minister to others not in religious connection with us. Numerous are the testimonials that these visits were to their edification.

But a little before the close of life, she attended the burial of our dear, aged friend, Hannah Dennis, to whom she was closely united, and with whom she had for many years harmoniously labored for the prosperity of the Church. Her religious services on this occasion were very striking and impressive.

She was spared the suffering of a protracted sickness, being suddenly taken ill on the night of the 14th of 9th month, 1852, and in a very short time the scene closed, and we reverently believe that her lamp was trimmed and burning, and that through the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, she was permitted to enter with the glorious Bridegroom of souls, into the marriage chamber of the Lamb. Her remains were interred in Friends' burial ground at Portsmouth, R. I., on the 16th, after a large and solemn meeting, which was held on the occasion.

Signed, on behalf of Rhode Island Monthly Meeting, 1st mo., 26th, 1854.

DAVID BUFFUM,
MARY WILLIAMS, } Clerks.

At Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, held at Providence, the 2d of 2d month, 1854,

The foregoing testimony of Rhode Island Monthly Meeting, concerning our late beloved friend, Elizabeth Wing, being read and approved, it is directed that it be forwarded to the Meeting for Sufferings.

From the Minutes of the Meeting:—

GILBERT CONGDON,
SARAH F. TOBEY, } Clerks.

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